GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:383
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2001
PERFORMANCE OF SPORTS PERSONS
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of Indian sports persons in the international meets have neither been satisfactory nor encouraging during the last one decade;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the steps being taken to remove bottlenecks impending excellent performance such as faulty selection of players, malnutrition of sports persons, below standard training, lack of international level of sports infrastructure etc. to regain lost glory in the fields of Hockey, Wrestling, Boxing, Cricket etc.?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SUSHREE UMA BHARTI)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 383 20.08.2001 REGARDING PERFORMANCE OF SPORTS PERSONS BY SHRI J.S. BRAR.

(a) The performance levels of Indian sports persons has not been as encouraging as expected. However, there has been an improvement over the years in their performance. The process to improve the standard of sports is slow but has already started yielding promising results. New national records are being created every year in several disciplines. During the Sydney Olympics held in 2000, India for the first time had 7 sports persons / teams which ranked in the first ten.

(b) Severe financial constraints and the enormity of the challenge of sports promotion and development of sports infrastructure across the country are main reasons for the slow development of sports performance in the country. In addition, the ratio of persons participating in competitive sports is low leading to lesser competition and consequently lower performance. Food habits, culture, environment, and motivation apart from scientific training, availability of latest up-to-date equipment and infrastructure facilities play a crucial role in deciding the level of performance of a sports persons.

(c) In order to improve the standard of Indian sportspersons, it is essential that the resource allocation for sports be substantially increased both for overall development of sports and for achieving excellence. In addition to this, the following steps are being taken for improving the performance of Indian sportspersons in International sports events:

1. As per the Government Policy and Olympic Charter, the National Sports Federations, recognized by the Government are primarily responsible for the promotion of their disciplines. The National Sports Federations have formulated Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs) covering various aspects, in consultation, inter-alia, with the Sports Authority of India. The National Sports Federations are being assisted in arranging coaching camps for sports persons included in the National Teams, with the help of Indian and Foreign Coaches, provision of requisite equipment and scientific support through the Sports Authority of India.

2. The Federations are also assisted in holding National level championships and in sending promising sports persons for participation in International Sports Events.

3. Promising sports persons are being provided a package of assistance (up to Rs. 5 lakhs per year) for training and up-gradation of their skills. Supporting personnel, such as coaches and sports scientists, are also being assisted to undergo specialized training.

4. The National Coaching Scheme is being activised by assigni9ng target-oriented duties to coaches.

5. Assistance is being provided for creation of sports infrastructure, including laying of Synthetic Surfaces.

6. With a view to further motivate the sports persons, Awards and incentives are provided; the scale of Awards has been increased substantially.